

Application Serial No. 10/812,599  
Reply to Office Action of 09/08/2006

PATENT  
Docket: CU-3671

### Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims presented below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

#### Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for generating an mottling value calculation formula of a paint film containing a glittering material~~, comprising the steps of:

an image generation step for generating a brightness image of ~~[[ the-]] a paint film containing a glittering material~~ based on a light that is irradiated to and reflected by the paint film,

a glitter representing value calculation step for calculating a glitter representing value that represents properties of the brightness image generated at the image generation step,

a color value acquisition step acquiring color values of the reflected light in one or more predetermined light-receiving angles, colorimetry of the reflected light being separated performed,

a visual evaluation value acquisition step for acquiring a visual evaluation value of the mottling of the paint film, the visual evaluation being separately carried out, ~~[[ and-]]~~

a calculation formula generating step for generating ~~[[ an-]] a mottling calculation formula of the paint film based on the glitter representing value calculated at the glitter representing value calculation step, the color values acquired at the color value acquisition step, and the visual evaluation value acquired at the visual evaluation value acquisition step~~~~[[ - ]]~~ , and

an evaluation step for numerically evaluating mottling of other paint film using the generated mottling value calculation formula.

2. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for generating an mottling value calculation formula as claimed in claim 1~~, wherein the image generation generating step comprises ~~is characterized by~~ generating an image using one of a scanner, a CCD camera, and an image pick-up apparatus.

3. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for generating an mottling value calculation formula as claimed in claim 1~~, wherein the glitter representing value

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calculation step comprises:

an image-processing step for processing the brightness image by a spatial-frequency differential process, and

a totaling step for totaling gradation ~~step step~~ values of the brightness image that is processed ~~at a~~ at the image-processing step.

4. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for generating an mottling value calculation formula~~ as claimed in claim 3, wherein the spatial-frequency differential process employs one of a Sobel filter, a Roberts filter, and a Laplacian filter.

5. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for generating an mottling value calculation formula~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the color value acquisition step acquires at least one of a chroma value, an FF value of the chroma value, a brightness value, an FF value of the brightness value, a hue angle, and a hue angle difference in the predetermined light-receiving angles.

6. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for generating an mottling value calculation formula~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the calculation formula is generated using Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship (QSAR) analysis software.

7. (Cancelled)